# Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee Wednesday, April 18, 2012 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Building C, Room C131E 12100 Park 35 Circle Austin, Texas 78753

### **MINUTES**

### Call to order

Chairman Bob Huston called the meeting to order.

# Approval of meeting minutes from March 14, 2012

The members requested that a summary of Dr. Kirk Winemiller's comments regarding the Brazos BBEST recommendations be included in the minutes for the March 14, 2012 SAC meeting. The minutes were approved pending this addition.

### **FY2012 Budget Update**

**Solis** 

Ruben Solis, TWDB, provided a brief report on the status of the SAC budget to date.

Liaison Reports Liaisons

Rio Grande liaison Bob Brandes reported that the Rio Grande BBESTs had requested and been granted an extension to June 1, 2012. At the time of this meeting, the Rio Grande BBESTs were expected to have their recommendations complete by this date.

Tony Smith, Trinity-San Jacinto BBEST member, reported that the BBEST presented the BBASC with their final draft work plan which was approved pending non-substantive revisions.

Cory Horan, TCEQ, reported that the Guadalupe-San Antonio BBASC will approve their work plan at their May 2012 meeting.

It was reported that the Colorado-Lavaca work plan will be approved by the BBASC at their next meeting.

### **Presentation on SB2 Program Status**

**Agencies** 

Dakus Geeslin, TCEQ, Kevin Mayes, TPWD, and Mark Wentzel, TWDB, presented an update on the SB2 program. They discussed the program's status, noting that priority studies are to be complete by the end of 2016. Dakus Geeslin explained that the SB2 study process involves four key steps: 1) collect and evaluate baseline information; 2) goal development consistent with the concept of sound ecological environment; 3) multidisciplinary data collection and evaluation; and 4) data integration to generate instream flow recommendations. The final result of these flow studies is a study report that describes the quantity and timing of flows required to support a sound ecological environment. It was noted that this result does not address implementation, monitoring, or adaptive management.

Kevin Mayes discussed the flow ecology analyses incorporated into the SB2 study designs. This analysis includes mussel habitat vs. flow, fish habitat vs. flow, riparian species productivity vs. flow, and, related to overbanking events, sediment transport/floodplain accretion vs. flow.

Mark Wentzel discussed how the results from the program might relate to the informational needs that come out of the SB3 process, as identified in the SB3 work plans for adaptive management.

Chairman Huston explained that there are fundamental differences in the SB2 and SB3 statutes which need to be clearly identified and that at the end of the day there are agency recommendations that come out of SB2.

# Completion of Review and Comments – Brazos BBEST Report Jensen

The members reviewed and discussed outstanding review comments outlined in the draft Brazos BBEST review document, refining and clarifying language in order to complete their review. The members made revisions based on this discussion. Member Paul Jensen will incorporate these changes and distribute to the members for final review by April 19, 2012. Chairman Huston will prepare the review document's transmittal letter.

### Continued Discussion – SB3 "Going Forward"

All

This discussion was postponed to a future meeting.

### **Other Discussion Items**

All

Kathy Alexander, TCEQ, discussed the rulemaking process for the Guadalupe/San Antonio and Colorado/Lavaca environmental flow standards. She noted the TCEQ is hosting a stakeholder meeting on May 8, 2012 and that the public comment period regarding the proposed rules will close on May 14, 2012.

### **Public comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

# **Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Agenda**

Future meetings are scheduled for June 20, 2012 and July 11, 2012. Discussion items will include the Rio Grande BBEST reports, SAC review of work plans, and SB3 "going forward."

# Adjourn